

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041590
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-01
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-08 /135 R

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R 242020Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, GATT

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PAGE 02 STATE 041590

SUBJECT: GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE: SPRING
CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) GENEVA 221 (NOTAL) (B) GENEVA 1053 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ADDRESSEE'S HOST GOVERNMENTS SCHEDULED FOR
MAY BOP CONSULTATIONS. WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD

APPRECIATE EMBASSY INPUT INTO PREPARATIONS FOR UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE US REQUESTS FOR FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH CERTAIN LDCS. END SUMMARY.

2. REF (A) INDICATES ADDRESSEE'S HOST GOVERNMENTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP) CONSULTATIONS NOW SET FOR MAY 23-27 (REF B). THESE CONSULTATIONS ALLOW CONTRACTING PARTIES TO REVIEW TRADE MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REASONS. USG HAS LONG ATTACHED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO SUCH CONSULTATIONS AND BELIEVES CURRENT GATT PROCEDURES FOR SUCH REVIEWS SHOULD BE IMPROVED. FYI - THE USG HAS PROPOSED SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN GATT BOP PROCEDURES IN THE GATT CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 18 (CG-18). THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN FORMALLY RECEIVED BY CG-18 GOVERNMENTS BUT NOT BY OTHERS.

WE EXPECT TO PURSUE THESE PROPOSALS IN THE RECENTLY CREATED FRAMEWORK GROUP IN MTN. IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO USE USG INPUT INTO THE REVIEWS UNDER CURRENT PROCEDURES AS A MEANS OF GETTING ACROSS SOME OF OUR IDEAS FOR IMPROVED DISCIPLINE. END FYI

3. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT USG PARTICIPATION IN BOP CONSULTATIONS HAS BEEN MORE MEANINGFUL WHEN WE HAVE HAD UP TO DATE INDEPENDENT REPORTING AND JUDGEMENT FROM EMBASSIES, RATHER THAN HAVING TO RELY ENTIRELY ON CONSULTING GOVERNMENT'S SUBMISSION TO THE GATT WHICH AT PRESENT IS THE ONLY DOCUMENT AVAILABLE AT MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 041590

OF THE REVIEWS. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR RESOURCES, APPRAISAL OF BOP SITUATION IN CONSULTING COUNTRIES BASED ON (A) BOP TREND SINCE LAST CONSULTATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS, AND (B) CHANGES IN IMPORT RESTRICTION REGIMES SINCE LAST CONSULTATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS. IF PREVIOUS REPORTING IS UP TO DATE ON THESE MATTERS, PLEASE CITE RELEVANT MESSAGES.

4. REF A INDICATES ONLY FINLAND DEFINITELY SCHEDULED FOR FULL CONSULTATION WHICH INCLUDES AN INDEPENDENT IMF ASSESSMENT OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE MEASURES AND ORAL QUESTIONS FROM BOP COMMITTEE MEMBERS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR MINI REVIEWS (MODIFIED BY REF B). SINCE MINI CONSULTATIONS DO NOT GO INTO ANY DEPTH, AND SINCE MANY COUNTRIES SCHEDULED FOR MINIS HAVE NOT HAD FULL CONSULTATIONS SINCE EARLY 70S OR BEFORE, EMBASSY REPORTING SHOULD INDICATE ANY SPECIAL FACTORS MILITATING EITHER FOR

OR AGAINST DECISION TO REQUEST FULL REVIEW. SUCH REVIEW WOULD BE REQUESTED AT THE MAY MEETING. IF AGREED UPON THEY WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR THE FALL. GIVEN SUCH FACTORS AS LEVEL OF TRADE AND RESTRICTIONS, AND LENGTH OF TIME SINCE LAST FULL CONSULTATION, PRELIMINARY THINKING HERE IS THAT CHILE AND PAKISTAN MAY BE GOOD CANDIDATES. (TURKEY WILL HAVE FULL CONSULTATION IF STAMP DUTY IS EXTENDED.)

5. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE INDICATE STATUS OF BOP-RELATED CONSULTATIONS WITH ITALY AND NEW ZEALAND. CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIFIC MEASURES SEEM TO BE IN ORDER, BUT ARE NOT MENTIONED ON BOP SCHEDULE. IF ARGENTINA OR INDIA MINIS WERE TO RESULT IN FULL REVIEWS, WHAT SCHEDULING WOULD FOLLOW?

6. FOR CAIRO: WASHINGTON RECOGNIZES GOE DIFFICULTIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 041590

AND EMBASSY CONSTRAINTS. WOULD NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATE BRIEF BOP ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION WHETHER CURRENT PROBLEMS MAY CALL FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CONSULTATION, AND SUGGESTED USG ATTITUDE. VANCE

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